

THE COUNTRY'S CROPS.

The Agricultural Department's Latest Reports.

Corn and Cotton in Good Condition, Wheat Not Doing Well.

According to the October report of the Department of Agriculture the preliminary estimate of yield of wheat per acre is 12.8. The returns of yield per acre of wheat are in the measure of 12.8. This report is preliminary, as the local estimates will be tested by the record books of the threshers now coming in. The present averages for the principal States are: In New York, 13.8 bushels; Pennsylvania, 12.3; Ohio, 14.6; Michigan, 14.7; Indiana, 14.7; Illinois, 15.7; Wisconsin, 14.2; Minnesota, 14.7; Iowa, 13.1; Missouri, 13.8; Kansas, 18.4; Nebraska, 12.4; Dakota, 8.4; California, 15. Winter wheat is injured in many districts during harvest and in the stock by heavy rains, thus reducing the weight and value. Its weight and quality will be the subject of further report after test of the scales in marketing.

The general percentage of condition of corn is 91.7, against 90.3 a month ago, and 92 for the crop of 1888 on October 1. Condition of potatoes, 77.0, against 80.8 last October; of buckwheat, 90, against 92.1 last year; of tobacco, 80.7, against 85.7 in 1888. It is generally good, but not as favorable for corn. Slight frost north of forty degrees injured late corn, but the percentage of damage was generally very small, as the crop was well matured in the weight and quality. The dry weather came opportunely after the abundant rains of July and August, which somewhat impaired the condition of the crop on the Atlantic coast. In the States south of Maryland the bottom lands were quite too wet for the best yield or quality. The best development of corn was in the Missouri Valley. The best growth in the South was in the Gulf States. It could scarcely be improved in either district, though the yield per acre is much greater in the higher latitudes.

Potatoes were injured east of the Alleghenies by excess of moisture, causing rot. From West Virginia and Ohio similar reports are received. Drought reduced the yield in Michigan, though the quality is generally good. In the Mississippi Valley the crop is more promising. In the Rocky Mountain region, where the area is largely increased, the season has been unfavorable. The cotton returns of the 1st of October to the Department are as follows: The plant growth, active opening of the bolls, fiber in good condition and generally fine weather for picking. Yet the plant is everywhere reported late, and fears are expressed that the crop may be seriously injured. The condition is naturally reported high, with a reservation by the most intelligent correspondents that present favorable reports are deceptive in that in some of the excessive moisture, its outcome falls below expectation, while in those of drought the result is better than was feared. With an early date of killing frost the present condition will be highly discounted, with a date later than the average a large crop will be gathered. The crop has been injured more by moisture than drought, though some soil and localities have been too dry in September. Worms have wrought considerable injury, notwithstanding the general use of insecticides, especially west of Alabama. Complaint of aeration of Paris green is made in certain quarters.

The following State percentages are presented: Virginia, 58; North Carolina, 52; South Carolina, 51; Georgia, 57; Florida, 58; Alabama, 57; Mississippi, 70; Louisiana, 58; Texas, 78; Arkansas, 57; Tennessee, 52. This makes a general percentage 51.4 of a full crop prospect on the first of October, compared with 78.9 per cent. last October.

TWO HUNDRED HOMELESS.

Fire Almost Destroys the Town of Serpent River.

Fire broke out in Cook's lumber yard at Serpent River, Ontario. A heavy northwest wind blowing extended the flames and soon the whole town was on fire. There was forty buildings in the town, general stores and dwelling houses.

A special train with fire engines and a brigade of Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario) firemen left at once for the scene of the conflagration. Fifty miles of the railway were burned, as consumed. The loss is estimated at \$300,000.

The vicinity is strewn with household goods and homeless families are homeless. The African and schooner Marquis, which were loading at the docks, pulled out into the lake and were saved.

There are about 200 people homeless, and temporary structures are being erected to house them.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

HANRIAL HAMILTON has done a great lot of partridge shooting.

GEORGE BANCROFT, the historian, is passionately fond of roses.

WILL CARLTON, the poet, is writing a book entitled "City Legends of London."

JAY GOULD gets down to Wall street before 10 o'clock in the morning.

PLASCUELO, the Spanish bull-fighter, has retired, with a fortune of \$400,000.

POPE LEO rises at 5:30 and at 6 takes a walk in the gardens of the Vatican.

It is said that the Paris Rothschilds have arranged to let Russia have \$400,000,000.

PRIVATE SECRETARY HALFORD's illness is said to be due to overindulgence in cigars.

GENERAL BOULANGER's wife still lives in the deepest seclusion at Versailles, France.

EX-MAYOR SEETH LOW, of Brooklyn, has been elected President of Columbia College.

JAMES R. RANDALL wrote "Maryland, My Maryland," at twenty-two. He is now fifty.

DR. HANSEN, the distinguished Swedish explorer, is about to set out for the North Pole.

LOUIS BRENNAN, the inventor of the Brennan torpedo, is an Irishman and a home-bodier.

MR. GLADSTONE's weight is 163 pounds. According to his height he ought to weigh more.

SUPERINTENDENT FOX, of the Philadelphia Mint, has suffered a slight stroke of facial paralysis.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL is to live at Elmwood, near Cambridge, Mass., this winter, with his daughter.

OSCAR S. STRAUS, ex-Minister to Turkey, makes a hobby of collecting and studying books on American history.

THE Prince of Liechtenstein has the distinction of ruling over the smallest State in the world, population 9100.

REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON, of England, is organizing a society to collect donations relating to the Washington family.

MR. HENRY GEORGE is going to California in January and thence will proceed to Australia and New Zealand, lecturing.

Mrs. LELAND STANFORD has the most valuable collection of diamonds in the world, except the crown jewels of Russia and Great Britain.

DR. D. HAYES AGNEW, of Philadelphia, who was one of President Garfield's consulting physicians after the shooting, is now seventy-one years old.

COLONEL W. M. FULLER, of Perryopolis, Penn., is said to bear such a striking resemblance to ex-President Cleveland that he is often mistaken for him.

MARSHALL MACMURDO, ex-President of France, though advanced in years is still active. He takes great interest in the Paris Exposition and goes there every day.

THE White Cross University of Science has decorated George W. Childs, James Gordon Bennett, Thomas A. Edison, John W. Mackay, Cyrus W. Field, William W. Hubbard.

MARY TWAINE, the great humorist, lives as idle, easy-going sort of existence during nine months of the year. Unlike most authors, he works all the summer and rests all the remainder of the year.

MISS WINDIE DIX will accompany her father, Jefferson Davis, to the Fayetteville, N. C., centennial celebration in November. A grand ball will be given in honor of Mr. Davis during the centennial.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

Eastern and Middle States.

Six of the officers of the Navassa phosphate Company, who were involved in the recent riots in the island of Navassa, have arrived in Philadelphia.

The fertilizer factory of G. Ober, Sons & Co., at Baltimore, Md., has been burned. Loss, \$300,000.

The State Board of Health has issued a proclamation declaring diphtheria to be epidemic in Carbondale, Penn., and has urged undertakers to have refused to further endanger the lives of their families by handling the bodies of the dead.

The House of Deputies at the Episcopal Convention in New York City rejected the resolution designed to facilitate the establishment of a Court of Appeals.

GOVERNOR HILL and Chauncey M. Depew spoke at the laying of the cornerstone of the new World building in New York. The structure, when completed, will be the highest building in America.

The great trotting match at Fleetwood Park, New York City, between Belle Hamlin and Harry Wilkes, for \$5000, was won by the former in two straight heats. Time—2:10 3/4.

JOHN FERRIS, a Western Union lineman, was killed by an electric light wire in New York City. His body hung in midair for nearly one hour while thousands looked on. Six men have died in New York City from this cause within the past week.

THOMAS SHIELDS, whose negligence in leaving rails unspiked led to a fatal wreck at North Haven, Conn., has been found guilty of manslaughter.

In Frankford Township, Penn., a child was instantly killed by a mad bull. The animal's head was stuck in the back and penetrated to the heart.

The leading manufacturers of Philadelphia have signed a document declaring New York City to be the financial center of the country, and recognizing it as the appropriate place for the World's Fair in 1892.

MAYOR GRANT, of New York City, has given orders to cut down all electric wires not operated according to the rules of the Board of Electrical Control.

The delegates to the International American Congress designed Niagara Falls and were entertained at dinner by Erasmus Wiman.

JOHN F. DONAHUE, head money-order clerk in the Hartford (Conn.) postoffice, is a defaulter to the amount of about \$1000.

QUARTERMASTER WILLIAM H. STOWE, of the 1st Cavalry, New York, of New York, is short \$4000 in his accounts with the post.

GEORGE P. MARIS, once prominent in Baltimore society, died from chloroform poisoning in a lodging house in New York City.

The grave of Ralph Waldo Emerson at Concord, Mass., was opened by vandals; the coffin was exposed to view, but the body was not touched.

A FIERCE storm raged off the Massachusetts coast and did much damage to shipping.

A WOMAN named O'Brien was killed with her horse by falling from the roof of a tenement house in New York City.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions began their annual session in New York City.

The Episcopal General Convention in New York City decided that it was in favor of the present condition of the Episcopate, and a large crop will be gathered. The crop has been injured more by moisture than drought, though some soil and localities have been too dry in September. Worms have wrought considerable injury, notwithstanding the general use of insecticides, especially west of Alabama. Complaint of aeration of Paris green is made in certain quarters.

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South and West.

ROBERT BRANTON, of Salt Lake City, in a fit of drunken jealousy fatally shot his wife, then shot himself dead.

The Southern yellow pine lumber Association met at Birmingham, Ala., and advanced the price of yellow pine lumber \$1 per 1000 feet.

SUPERINTENDENT T. WADLEY, of Davis & Lamar's mine, near Langley, S. C., was killed by the caving in of a bank while he was in the mine.

COLONEL CONLEY, of Chicago, has just bought the greatest roller Axtell for \$105,000.

The switchmen in the yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Toledo, Ohio, struck for higher wages, causing a suspension of business in the yards of the Pennsylvania, Rock Island, and Erie roads.

While boring for natural gas at Pueblo, Cal., a vein was unexpectedly struck and the escaping gas taking fire from a lantern burned one man to death and another very severely.

The large livey barn of Orby Bros., at Chicago, was burned. Six horses, including a \$1500 stallion, were roasted in the flames. Two men who slept in the barn are missing.

At least 500,000 pounds of tobacco in the county of Fleming, Ky., have been entirely destroyed by frost.

While a wrecking crew was engaged in clearing away a freight wreck at Lansing, Mich., the hoisting beam of the steam derrick broke and fell, killing three men.

FIRE has destroyed the St. James Hotel and three other buildings at Rice, Cal. Three men were burned to death.

A WRECK on the Big Four road, ten miles from Cincinnati, caused the death of Engineer Morris and Fireman Whitestone. Two tramps and a brakeman were also killed.

SEVERAL arrests have been made and indictments found for attempted jury-fixing in the Corcoran murder trial at Chicago. CARANUS BIGGS, colored, was lynched at Herculio, Miss. He confessed that he had assaulted a white woman.

HANS JEFFERSON was sentenced at Provo, Utah, to five years imprisonment for polygamy.

The vote for Governor in South Dakota was: Mellette (Rep.), 53,129; McClure (Dem.), 23,441. For prohibition the vote was 39,509, and against, 33,456. The contest for the temporary capital resulted in Pierre getting 57,520 votes, to 14,914 for Huron and 11,763 for Mitchell and 3414 for Chamberlain.

An engine at Heulein's sorghum mills at Bucyrus, Ohio, exploded, killing the engineer and two other men.

DANIEL ROSS and his son, Alphonsus, quarreled over their ranch near San Antonio, Tex., and the father was killed and the son fatally wounded.

BOTH parties at last accounts were claiming the Montana Legislature.

DR. W. M. TERRY, of Nicholson, Miss., quarreled with three ladies, and was killed at the hands of J. W. Turner, Collins's brother-in-law.

THE nine-year-old daughter of C. G. Brown, a farmer living near Herrington, Kan., fell into a vat of boiling sorghum and was scalded to death.

FIVE THOUSAND railroad brakemen assembled in St. Louis to attend the second annual convention of the Brotherhood and had an imposing parade.

NINE men and three women, all colored, have been arrested, charged with robbing over 100 residences and business houses about Charlotte, N. C. Robbery is a capital offense in North Carolina.

The stem of the new coast-defense vessel has been successfully cast at the Pacific Rolling Mills in San Francisco. Sixteen thousand pounds of molten steel were poured into the mould for the stem.

ROBERT BERRIER, who shot and killed his mother, Mrs. M. Walzer, near Lexington, N. C., was captured near Greensboro, and taken to Lexington, where he was hanged to a tree on the outskirts of the town.

REPRESENTATIVES of an English syndicate have purchased the three largest breweries in Indiana, situated in Indianapolis.

GOVERNOR HILL, of New York, arrived at Atlanta, Ga., and met with a most enthusiastic reception, he being escorted to his hotel with flambeaux.

A FRIGHTFUL collision has occurred at Sterling, Cal., between a Burlington and a Union Pacific passenger train, in which twenty passengers were killed and many injured.

In a fight between members of the Farmers' Alliance and the town party at Dothen,

Ala., two men were killed and several severely injured.

The Ohio River steamboat Minnie Bay, bound from Manchester to Cincinnati with 135 passengers aboard, struck a snag opposite Moscow, Ohio, and sank. The passengers and crew were saved.

Washington.

J. P. S. GONN, of Pennsylvania, was elected at Washington Grand Master and Hugh McCurdy, of Michigan, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of America.

ELLWOOD T. HANCE has been appointed by President Harrison Postmaster at Detroit, Mich.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSSEY has reversed the order of ex-Commissioner Tamm re-rating all pensions at not less than \$4 per month.

PRESIDENT HARRISON has appointed John W. Blackburn, of Utah, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah.

The President has appointed Andrew W. Sawyer, of Louisiana, to be Superintendent of the Mint of the United States at New Orleans, and Charles A. Cook, of North Carolina, to be Attorney of the United States for the District of North Carolina.

GOVERNOR HILL, of New York, while on his way to the Piedmont Exhibition, at Atlanta, Ga., paid a visit to the White House, and was received by the President.

SECRETARY BLAINE has arranged an excursion for the nation's South American guests to start South December 1.

ANNUAL appointments by the President: DANIEL M. FROST, of Kansas, to be Register of the Land-office at Garden City, Kan.; DANIEL L. SHEETS, of Colorado, to be Receiver of Public Money at Durango, Colo.; WILLIAM C. NEWMAN, of Missouri, to be Receiver of Public Money at Ironton, Mo.

Foreign.

GENERAL BOULANGER has taken a villa near St. Helier on the island of Jersey. He is preparing a work on European military science.

ENGINEER JOHN FOLIES was killed by the explosion of a steam boiler at the mill at Lindsay, Ontario. The mill was wrecked.

A BAKER who was put into an oven by his companions in the city of Mexico was asphyxiated. To hide their crime they afterward burned the body in a furnace.

SNAILPOX is ranging in the Government of Argentina in Frusland. It has killed many of the natives, and its victims are counted by the thousands.

The Argentine Republic is about to float a loan of \$40,000,000 with a syndicate of European bankers.

DISASTROUS floods prevail in the Department of Orpelle in Frusland. A number of bridges have been swept away by the high water. Lons-le-Saulnier, the capital of the Department, is inundated.

The French Government will send a commission to Panama to inquire into the conditions of the work.

At Sonora, Mexico, two companies of Mexican soldiers were caught in swimming by Yaqui Indians and all of them were slaughtered. The Mexican Government sent 4000 men against the Indians.

Owing to the failure of the crops French Canadian farmers are threatened with starvation.

The Russian Czar and his son have been visiting the German Emperor at Berlin. Extraordinary precautions to guard the persons of the royal visitors from violence were taken.

CARINTHIA, Austria, has been inundated by an overflow of the Danube. A number of bridges have been destroyed, and much other damage done.

THIRTY-FIVE HUNDRED coal miners went on strike at Lens, France.

The Italian Government has declared a protectorate over Abyssinia.

In a battle between the British and a force of natives at the Island of Demarara, on the Indian Ocean, twenty-two of the latter were killed.

ALL the engineers and stokers on the Transatlantic steamers lying at Antwerp went on strike for an increase in wages, and a number of vessels ready to sail were delayed in consequence.

A FRENCH council of war was held in Paris to discuss the increase of the German frontier corps.

RAILROAD DISASTER.

One Killed and Many Injured in a Crash Near Omaha.

A terrible wreck has occurred on the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad at Gibson, a few miles from Omaha, Neb. About fifty passengers were injured. Two engines were completely demolished and a chair car and a combination car were thrown from the tracks and crushed to atoms. Train No. 10, the local passenger train, and Chicago, ran into No. 9. Both trains are due at Gibson at 6:45 P. M. No. 9 was slightly behind time, and had just crossed the spur when the engine on No. 9 struck it, the shock hurling the engines and the two coaches from the track. The combination coach and the chair car were both crowded with passengers, all of whom were more or less injured. Peter Reiland, proprietor of the Fremont House (Omaha), who was riding in the chair car, was killed shortly after being taken to the hospital. The chair car, after being overturned, caught fire, and many of the passengers were slightly burned, in addition to their other injuries.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

GEORGE W. CABLE, the novelist, has finished his promised drama.

Mrs. LANGTRY has made \$300,000 during her short career on stage.

The only lion who rides a horse is now making a great sensation in Paris.

Mrs. BELLE COLE, the American soprano, is winning laurels at Covent Garden, London.

SALVINI, the greatest living Italian tragedian, is playing an engagement at New York.

LAWRENCE BARRETT has made a hit at Chicago in William Young's new romantic tragedy, "Ganon."

In Paris and the provinces 393 new plays, operettas, dramas, or revues, have been produced during the year.

MR. HENRY IRVING is contemplating a tour in Australia. He has been offered great inducements to do there.

The American Art Society of New York City has selected plans for its new building, which is to cost \$200,000.

It is reported that Dr. von Bulow has signed an agreement to revisit the United States in the early spring.

EDWIN BOOTH and Madame Modjeska are playing tonight at the season at New York in "Richard III."

Mrs. JAMES BROWN POTTER is suffering from nervous prostration and will spend a good portion of the fall in the south of France.

MR. REEA is said to be making a success in her new play "Josephine," and has been offered a return engagement at the Globe Theatre, Boston.

SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN, for the first time in twenty years, is about to attempt an opera on a serious subject, intended for the Lyric Theatre in London.

HERN BORTAL, a wonderful tenor, is fascinating the audiences at the Kral Garden, Berlin. He was a coachman not long ago and his rise to fame has been romantic in its details.

The marriage of Walter Damrosch, the New York musical conductor, and Margaret, daughter of James G. Blaine, will take place next spring. The engagement has been officially announced.

The well known German novelist Friedrich Spielhagen is said to have written a play which occupies a whole evening, and which will be performed in the coming season at the Deutsches Volkstheater of Vienna.

MISS PROBER RUSSELL, the charming heroine of Mr. Daly's production of "Midnight in Moscow," is to be married to Norman Dodge. Her father is a prominent lawyer in Detroit, and has been mentioned in connection with a vacant seat on the Supreme Court bench.

SEVERAL thousand Hebrews who have been expelled from Russia and have taken temporary refuge in England intend to go out as colonists to the Argentine Republic.

REV. MR. SPURGEON's admirers in London are disturbed by a rumor that he is seriously contemplating retirement from the pulpit.

TALMAGE'S CHURCH BURNED.

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Destroyed by Fire.

Electric Light Wires Thought to Be the Cause.

Dr. Talmage's church, the Brooklyn Tabernacle, has been completely destroyed by fire, including the furniture and magnificent organ.

At 2:45 A. M. a patrolman McCaffery, while patrolling his beat, saw flames issuing from the small window over the main entrance of the Tabernacle. He at once sent out an alarm. The fire department responded promptly. The flames made rapid progress, and before the firemen could reach the house a solid column of fire illuminated the sky. A second alarm was sent out, realizing that there was no hope of saving the building. The firemen tried their efforts toward saving the surrounding houses.

Within half an hour the immense building was a mass of flames. The heat was intense, compelling the firemen to keep at a respectful distance, peeling the paint from the houses opposite and destroying nearly every pane of glass in the buildings within 300 feet of the Tabernacle.

Inside the Tabernacle the auditorium resembled a bonfire. The flames were eating everything with wonderful rapidity. In twenty minutes after the discovery of the fire the wooden and iron girders supporting the roof were being consumed. The collapse of the roof several streams of water were turned upon the burning mass, but it was not quenched until nearly every vestige of wood-work had been destroyed.

How the morning hours came thousands of people who gazed upon the ruins of the famous Tabernacle. They were kept at a safe distance, however, as the remaining portion of the front wall were liable to fall at any moment.

All that remains of the once handsome building are the front and west gables, almost intact, and portions of the rear and side walls. The interior of the building was completely gutted, not a vestige remaining of the organ, platform, gallery, seats or other furnishings. The wooden dome, which was the glory of the building, was consumed by the flames, while the entrances themselves are filled with masses of brick and other debris. The polished marble pillars which ornamented the base of the front gables and the sides of the entrances are intact, as is also the small sign bearing the name of Sexton John Day in gold letters at the left of the east entrance.

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